

Application No.: 10/718,176
Reply to Office Action of 06/17/2005
Art Unit: 3745

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A side-blown fan comprising:

a case having a side-outlet, a first axial inlet, and a first protrusion extending from an edge of the first axial inlet toward the center of the first axial inlet; and

a blade member embedded inside the case,

wherein a high air pressure region exists between the blade member and the case in a radial direction, [[and]] the first protrusion covers the high air pressure region and a part of the blade member, and the first protrusion is a chord edge or a bump of the first axial inlet.

Claim 2 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 1, further comprising a flow field region between the case and the blade member.

Claim 3 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 2, wherein the high air pressure region is a region extending from the narrowest section of the flow field region to a section at a prescribed distance along the direction of the operational air stream inside the case.

Claim 4 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 1, wherein the high air pressure region means a narrow region existing between the blade member and the case

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in the radial direction.

Claim 5 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 1, wherein the case is constituted of a plurality of case elements.

Claim 6 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of case elements are jointed by a method selected from the group consisting of fixing, riveting, fastening and adhering.

Claim 7 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of case elements are jointed by engaging hooking structures and corresponding eye structures formed on the case elements, respectively; or the plurality of case elements are jointed by engaging U-shaped structures and corresponding bump structures formed on the case elements, respectively.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 1, wherein the case further comprises a second axial inlet, and a second protrusion extending from an edge of the second axial inlet toward the center of the second axial inlet.

Claim 10 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 9, wherein the second axial inlet corresponds to the first axial inlet, and the second protrusion corresponds to the first protrusion.

Claim 11 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 9, wherein the second protrusion is a chord edge or a bump of the second axial inlet.

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Claim 12 (original): A side-blown fan comprising:
a case having a side-outlet and a plurality of axial inlets; and
a blade member embedded inside the case, wherein a high air pressure region exists between the blade member and the case in a radial direction, and each axial inlet has a protrusion extending from an edge of the axial inlet close to the high air pressure region toward the center of the axial inlet.

Claim 13 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 12, wherein the protrusion covers the high air pressure region and a part of the blade member.

Claim 14 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 12, further comprising a flow field region between the case and the blade member.

Claim 15 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 14, wherein the high air pressure region is a region extending from the narrowest section of the flow field region to a section at a prescribed distance along the direction of the operational air stream inside the case.

Claim 16 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 12, wherein the high air pressure region is a narrow region existing between the blade member and the case in the radial direction.

Claim 17 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 12, wherein the case is constituted of a plurality of case elements.

Claim 18 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 17, wherein the plurality

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of case elements are jointed by a method selected from the group consisting of fixing, riveting, fastening and adhering.

Claim 19 (original): The side-blown fan according to claim 17, wherein
the plurality of case elements are jointed by engaging hooking structures and
corresponding eye structures formed on the case elements, respectively; or
the plurality of case elements are jointed by engaging U-shaped structures and
corresponding bump structures formed on the case elements, respectively.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The side-blown fan according to claim 12, wherein
each protrusion is a chord edge or a bump of each ~~axital~~ axial inlet.